

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



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Week of March 2—March 9



COMMUNITY ALERT

**Affordable Care Act
Update:**

**Deadline to enroll is
March 31st**

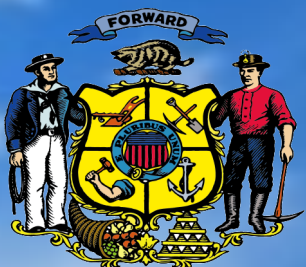
**For more information
or to sign up, visit
healthcare.gov**

**Questions?
Call 1-800-318-2596**

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always, I'm
Here to Serve!



CLOUDING THE POLITICAL PROCESS



This week, two bills concerning campaign finance and political activity were introduced in the senate. SB 654 creates new ways for lobbyists and political organizations to avoid reporting their finances, while SB 655 modifies campaign finance laws by broadening lobbyists' ability to contribute to campaigns. These bills will make it easier for organizations and individuals to use money to influence elections, decrease accountability and loosen reporting requirements. These bills were introduced late Monday night, and before testimony had concluded at the public hearing on Wednesday, a vote was scheduled Thursday. During the executive session yesterday, a hastily amended SB 655 was recommended for passage on a vote of 3-2, while, unsurprisingly, SB654 was removed from discussion. I am deeply concerned about the process that was used for these bills. We cannot afford to ignore the fact that Senate Republicans are taking another jab at voters by decreasing transparency in the political process. It is a disservice to the people of Wisconsin.

ATTACK ON LOCAL CONTROL

Endangering the health and safety of many Wisconsin residents, SB 632 was introduced this week. The bill touches on the local regulation of nonmetallic mining, namely, frac sand mining. This troubling measure significantly expands the power of frac sand mining companies, allowing them to challenge ordinances that they feel impede their ability to extract frac sand, evade new ordinances regarding zoning or public health and safety, and invalidate existing ordinances pertaining to frac sand operations. Therefore, local ordinances put in place to regulate the industry and protect the public from potentially harmful effects could be ignored or invalidated. This diminishes our communities' power to make their own decisions and instead favors the interests of large corporations. Our legislature needs to think less about the needs of mining companies and more about the needs of Wisconsin's citizens.



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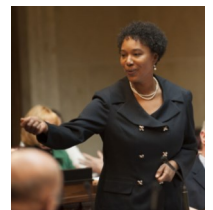
CELEBRATING TRANSIT WEEK

Inexpensive, environmentally-friendly, and convenient: what's not to love about public transportation? This past week we celebrated Transit Week, which saw the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Transportation Development Association join together to promote mass transit. Wisconsin's 81 mass transit systems provide public transportation for about 55% of the state's population, helping our citizens get to work, school, or even the doctor's office. I encourage everyone to use and support our state's excellent transit system.



GOV. WALKER: SPENDING THE SURPLUS

This week, the Senate took up Governor Walker's proposed plan to spend the state's surplus that would leave us with a deficit of \$658 million. This plan offers tax cuts for the wealthy and hurts the middle class. I strongly opposed the plan because of the harm it could cause our citizens. Instead, I support a responsible alternative approach. This balanced proposal would eliminate the deficit, while nearly doubling property tax relief for middle class families and tripling funding for job training. The GOP's plan was fiscally irresponsible and short sighted, and is a slap in the face for hard-working families and their children. We should be helping, not hurting, the middle class.



Wise Words of the Week!

Contact Us!

We Enjoy
Hearing
From You!

"A lack of transparency results in distrust and a deep sense of insecurity"

- Dalai Lama



"The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie, deliberate, contrived and dishonest, but the myth, persistent, persuasive and unrealistic"

- John F. Kennedy

